

## **CONTROLLER-BASED LINKED GAMING MACHINE BONUS SYSTEM**

### **ABSTRACT**

5           A method for providing bonus jackpot payoffs during a bonus  
mode time period in a system of linked gaming machines  
interconnected to a controller. Eligible gaming machines are  
determined at the time the bonus time period starts. Once the bonus  
mode time period starts, a portion of the eligible gaming machines are  
randomly selected for multiple jackpot bonus payoff opportunities.  
10       The random selection determines the rate the opportunities are issued  
and the average length of the bonus mode time period. Once gaming  
machines are selected they are allowed to complete the game they  
are currently involved in and should the play result in a winning  
combination, then the game payoff is multiplied by a bonus multiplier.  
15       The underlying gaming machine is responsible, in a conventional  
fashion, for paying the game payoff and the controller then authorizes  
a further jackpot bonus payoff of the bonus multiplier less one times  
the game payoff. The bonus pool value is then decremented by the  
amount paid by the controller. This process repeats until the bonus  
20       mode multiplier opportunities for each bonus multiplier in each bonus  
round is completed or until the bonus pool value drops below zero.